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**CLAIMS:**

What is claimed is:

1. A method in a data processing system for modifying a document, the method comprising:

responsive to receiving a user input to delete selected content within the document, determining whether a portion of the selected content is protected from deletion; and

responsive to the portion of the selected content being protected, preventing deletion of the portion of the selected content.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the user input is a first user input and further comprising:

responsive to a second user input confirming deletion of the portion of the selected content, allowing deletion of the portion of the selected content to proceed.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the preventing step includes:

generating an indication that the portion of the selected content is protected content.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the indication includes at least one of highlighting the protected content and causing the protected content to blink.

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5. The method of claim 1, wherein the portion of the selected content is at least one of text and a graphic image.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the determining step includes using a grep filter to identify the portion of the selected content.

7. A data processing system for modifying a document, the data processing system comprising:

determining means, responsive to receiving a user input to delete selected content within the document, for determining whether a portion of the selected content is protected from deletion; and

preventing means, responsive to the portion of the selected content being protected, for preventing deletion of the portion of the selected content.

8. The data processing system of claim 7, wherein the user input is a first user input and further comprising:

allowing means, responsive to a second user input confirming deletion of the portion of the selected content, for allowing deletion of the portion of the selected content to proceed.

9. The data processing system of claim 7, wherein the preventing means includes:

generating means for generating an indication that the portion of the selected content is protected content.

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10. The data processing system of claim 9, wherein the indication includes at least one of highlighting the protected content and causing the protected content to blink.

11. The data processing system of claim 7, wherein the portion of the selected content is at least one of text and a graphic image.

12. The data processing system of claim 7, wherein the determining means includes using a grep filter to identify the portion of the selected content.

13. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for modifying a document, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions, responsive to receiving a user input to delete selected content within the document, for determining whether a portion of the selected content is protected from deletion; and

second instructions, responsive to the portion of the selected content being protected, for preventing deletion of the portion of the selected content.

14. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the user input is a first user input and further comprising:

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third instructions, responsive to a second user input confirming deletion of the portion of the selected content, for allowing deletion of the portion of the selected content to proceed.

15. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the second instructions includes:

sub-instructions for generating an indication that the portion of the selected content is protected content.

16. The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the indication includes at least one of highlighting the protected content and causing the protected content to blink.

17. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the portion of the selected content is at least one of text and a graphic image.

18. The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the first instructions includes using a grep filter to identify the portion of the selected content.

19. A data processing system comprising:

a bus system;

a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes a set of instructions; and

a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes a set of instructions to determine whether a portion of selected

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content is protected from deletion in response to receiving a user input to delete selected content within a document; and prevent deletion of the portion of the selected content in response to the portion of the selected content being protected.

20. A data processing system of claim 19, wherein the processing unit further executes to allow deletion of the portion of the selected content to proceed in response to a second user input confirming deletion of the portion of the selected content.